

The Garden has been looking good over the summer and we have benefitted from good crops of broad beans, carrots, beetroot, beans (french and runner), onions, shallots and potatoes as well as courgettes. Sweet corn too is looking promising. We can look forward to a good squash harvest, a promising crop of parsnips and possibly some celeriac. Unfortunately the fennel which had looked promising bolted and was more decorative than fruitful.

The apples have done well this year with the apple walk beginning to take shape and yielding well. The soft fruit did well, despite the several infestations that appeared in the late Spring. Our exotic fruit trees yielded apricots, peaches and nectarines (even if not all ripened fully). The plums and pears have established and are yielding fruit.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to maintain the garden over the summer and to all who have laboured in the communal plots to provide the bounty we have enjoyed.

As requested I have put together worksheet for the year and a list of permitted chemicals in the garden. These are accepted organic chemicals and I will produce safety assessments for these for college approval. The proviso is that they must not be stored on site.

I would also like to establish agreed responses to any infestations, fungal, or viral that may arise in the garden so that anyone who sees signs of a problem knows what to do, or if they have doubts as to the cause, who to contact to alert us to its presence.

Autumn work needed:

The compost in our bins is now ready for use, and a working party is needed to help spread it and to reorganize the new compost in the green bins and the end compost bin.

The soft fruit will need pruning and subsequently these beds will need weeding, and the netting repairing. Possibly another working party.

Once the communal and side beds are cleared they too will need weeding and tidying up, and I encourage all the plot holders to do the same.

The wiring on the walls needs to be finished over the winter and the apple step over posts that have rotted replaced.

The fire pit piles need to be burnt.